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Environment Department to Hold Statewide Town Halls to Advise Store Owners on New Convenience Store Safety Regulations

(Santa Fe, NM) – The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) will hold a series of seven town hall meetings around the state in the next two weeks to inform store owners and operators about the new convenience store safety regulations approved by the New Mexico Environmental Improvement Board (EIB) in October 2004. Stores will be required to comply with these regulations beginning February 1, 2005.

“NMED is now moving forward on the important work of protecting store clerks on the graveyard shift,” said NMED Secretary Ron Curry. “These regulations have been a long time coming. I hope that this outreach process will leave store owners well informed about their responsibilities to protect clerks late at night.”

NMED will be holding town halls according to the following schedule:

Clovis, January 11, 5-7 pm at the Clovis Community College, 417 Schepps Blvd.
Hobbs, January 12, 5:30-7:30 pm, City Hall Rm. A&B, 300 N. Turner
Las Cruces, January 13, 5:30-7:30 pm, Department of Health, 1170 N. Solano, Rm. 1101
Farmington, January 18, 5-7 pm, Civic Center, Exhibition Hall 1 Rm C, 200 W. Arrington
Albuquerque, January 19, 3-5 pm, Hispano Chamber of Commerce, 1309 4th St. SW
Raton, January 20, 5-7 pm, Convention Center, 9021 S. 3rd St.
Santa Fe, January 21, 5-7 pm, Occupational Health & Safety Bureau, 1800 Old Pecos Tr.

The regulations approved in October direct convenience stores open between the hours of 11 pm and 5 am to either have two workers on duty, one clerk and a security guard or to limit public access to store clerks through bulletproof glass or other safety features. These regulations joined other store safety guidelines previously approved by the EIB including rules mandating the use of safety cameras, panic alarms and adequate lighting at convenience stores.

For additional information, contact Jon Goldstein, NMED Communications Director, at (505) 827-0260.

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